GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:460
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
SEZS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environment Support Groups have criticized the Government`s Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy particularly for failing to address the environmental issues related with it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to address the environmental concern and social impact of SEZs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c): The Special Economic Zones have to abide by the environmental laws and detailed notifications and instructions regarding the legal requirements and procedure for environmental clearances for the Special Economic Zones have been issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Also, the Letter of Approval issued to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) developers under the provisions of the SEZ Rules, 2006, inter-alia include conditions that the developer shall conform to the environmental requirements and that he shall obtain required approval from various statutory authorities under relevant statutes and regulations of the Government of India and the State Government and the local bodies. As per information available, in the 136 newly notified SEZs, Rs. 46705 Crores have been invested and 40153 direct jobs have been created.